

Money will help fund the college's Student Support Services Program

Washington, DC – Congressman John Adler announced today that Ocean County College (OCC) will receive a \$220,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education for their Student Support Services (SSS) Program. SSS programs provide tutoring and counseling services to local students working to earn their college and university degrees.

"During these tough times, it is critical that our students get the resources they need to earn a degree and get ahead," Congressman John Adler said. "Ocean County College is creating the next generation of small business owners who will create more private sector jobs and grow our economy. Ocean County deserves its fair share of resources for higher education."

Ocean County College President Dr. Jon Larson added, "This funding will help many students here at OCC. Time and again, Congressman Adler has shown his commitment to helping OCC better serve our students. This grant will help us continue one of our most important student assistance programs."

SSS is one of the nation's seven TRIO programs – performance-based education initiatives that work to ensure equal education opportunities for all Americans. The goal of these programs is to increase the college retention and graduation rates.

In addition to providing support services, grantees may use up to 20 percent of the total federal grant funds for direct financial assistance to current SSS participants who are receiving Federal Pell Grants.

For more information on the Student Support Services Program, or other federal TRIO education initiatives, visit: <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/trio/index.html>.